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RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1911  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1574  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2537  
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB PRIORITY 0795  
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9906  
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 3515  
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 3691  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 3004

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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [MARR](#) [NATO](#) [KTIA](#) [PREL](#) [HR](#) [AL](#) [SL](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: ITALIAN EFFORTS TO INDUCE SLOVENIA TO ACCELERATE  
CROATIA NATO RATIFICATION

REF: A. STATE 20395

[1](#)B. LJUBLJANA 62

Classified By: Acting Political Minister-Counselor J. Liam Wasley for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

[1](#)1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche and Slovenian referendum timeline to Italian MFA NATO Desk Officer Carlo Batori on March 9. Batori said the GOI agrees on the need to pressure the Slovenian government to move more quickly on ratifying Croatia's NATO accession protocol, and FM Frattini raised the issue specifically with his Slovenian counterpart in Rome on February 25. In addition, Italian NATO PermRep Stefanini raised it with his Slovenian counterpart in Brussels shortly before then. Batori was familiar with the referendum time frame but said that his office would review our timeline and weigh in as appropriate with the Slovenians.

Poloff followed up on March 12 and was told that the Italian Embassy in Ljubljana was optimistic that the withdrawal of the 25 June Party from the signature campaign (Ref B) had sufficiently crippled the referendum movement to allow the Slovenian government to deposit its instrument of ratification by the end of March. The Italians will continue to press the Slovenian Government to keep to this timeline.

DIBBLE